

A Second APOLOGIE of all the private Soldiers in his Excellencies Sir Thomas Fairfax his Army, to their Commission Officers.

SIRS,

WE your Soldiers, who have serv'd under your Commands, with all readiness, to free this our native Land and Nation, from all tyranny and oppressions whatsoever, and that by vertue and power derived from this present Parliament, given not only to his Excellency Sir Thomas Fairfax, our now present Generall, but likewise under all the late Generals his predecessours, under whom, we, even the whole Solderie, have served both the State & you faithfully & diligently: By which meane God hath been pleased to Crown us with victory, in dispersing our common adversaries, so that wee hoped to put an end to all Tyranie, and oppressions, so that justice and equity according to the Law of this Land, should have been done to the People, and that the meanest Subject should fully enjoy his right, libertie and proprieties in all things; which the Parliament have made known to all the world in divers of their declarations, to which they have so often bound themselves to performe; by their Oathes, Vowes, Covenants, and Protests; upon this ground of hope, wee have gon through all difficulties and dangers, that wee might purchase to the people of this Land, with our selves, a plentifull crop and harvest, of liberty and peace, but in stead of it, to the great grief and sadning of our hearts, wee see that oppression is as great as ever, if not greater, yea, and that upon the cordiall friends to the Parliament, and us, and to the just rights and liberties of this Nation, that they with us are slighted, abused, beaten, and dragged to Gaoles, yea, to the utter ruiue of their estates, and losse of their lives, yea, the best & most canded intentions & actions of theirs and ours, grossly & foully misconstrued, even to such a hight, as deserving no lesse then to be declared as troublers of, and enemies to the State and Kingdome, and such as have, and are now the enemies of the Parliament and Kingdome, are countenanced and honoured, to be in places of greatest trust; and are made judges of them and us, for our lives and estates, yea, and in the great affaires of the Kingdome, sittin in the House of Commons, though still under Sequestration; they are

* The high Sheriff of Kent, a man that was in the first Rebellion against the Parliament and by his meanes last Aylsme indite a Colo. for taking of Horses.
† As in Cumberland,
Exeter
at Northampton
Warwick
Albury
and this Sizze at Salfbury
London condemned
all these will be proved with many more instances.
* As that of 26 moneths the Horse are behind 13 moneths pay, and now to have but two moneths pay: judge Heaven and free people, God judge of this great evill.

made high * Sheriffs, Majors, of severall Counties and Townes, † Commissioners of Oyer and Terminer, from whence wee beleive springs all our miseries, and that so many of our fellow Soldiers, that have been disbanded, have been so rigorously dealt with all, as, * Imprisoned, indicted, and hanged, for things done in time and place of Warre, and necessity of the Parliaments service required, in their low condition, and without which they could not have safly sit in the House of Parliament with their heads on; and the reason of all this we judge, is because, our very enemies are made our Judges; yea, such is our condition, though wee be oppresed, wee may not cry: as it is too apparent, when of late wee did in a humble and petitionary way, seeke to make known our grievances to our Generall; such was our offence, as that, wee must presently, without being heard, be declared enemies to the State: though notwithstanding by these our enemies even such as have been Cavaliers in armes, have promoted and framed divers Remonstrances, petitions and representations of dangerous consequence, to the Parliament and Kingdome; and that against their most reall and cordiall friends; yet these have been accepted, and great thankes returned them: which holds forth to us, a cleare designe to enslave all the honest pary of this Kingdome, and in them wee and you also.

Therefore brave Commanders, the Lord put a spirit of courage into your hearts, that you may stand fast in your integrity, that you have manifested to us your Soldiers, and wee doe declare to you, that if any of you shall not; he shall be marked with a brand of infamy for ever, as a Traytor to his Country, and an enemy to his Army, read and consider, was their ever such things done by a Parliament, to proclaim us enemies to the State, as they have done about the late Petition: the Lords and they could quickly agree to this; though they will be very tedious when any thing is offered that is for the good of the Common wealth: and to keep the hirelings wages, * and not to give them that which they have so dearly bought, with their bloods and lives; even his pay; and not only so, but to leave them to the mercilesse malice of their wicked enemies.

Is it not better to dye like men then to be inflaved, and hanged like dogs? which must and will be yours and our portion, if nor now looked unto, even before our disbanding; so you may plainly see by this, their malice is great, yea, against our most honoured Generall; as that in the Lords House, they did more then whisper, he was a Delinquent: If they doe so now, and that to him, what will they not doe, not only to him, but to you, if a course be not taken for our and your security, before wee be disbanded; wee leave to you to judge.

Wee have been quiet and peaceable in obeying all Orders and commands, yet now wee have a just cause to tell you, if wee be not relieved in these our grievances, wee shall be forced to that, which wee pray God to divert, and keep your and our harts upright: desiring you to present these things to the Generall, as our desires.

1. That the honour of this Army may be vindicated, in every particular, especially about the late Petition, and reparations given, and justice done upon the fomentors.
2. That an Act of imdemnity may be made for all things done in time and place of Warre.
3. That the wives and children of those that have been slaine, in the service, and maimed Soldiers, may be provided for.
4. Our Arrears under this Generall, to be paid us, our arrears under other Generals, and to be audited and stated, and security given for the payment.
5. That wee that have served the Parliament freely, may not be pressed out of the Kingdome.
6. That the liberty of the Subject may be no longer inflaved, but that Justice and judgement may be dealt to the meanest Subject of this Land according to old Law.

Now unlesse all these our humble requests, be by you for us your Soldiers and your selves stood for to be granted, it had better we had never been borne, or at least wee had never been in Armes, but that wee had by the Sword been cut off from the misery wee and you are like to undergo: So wee rest, in hopes of your faithfulness;

True Soldiers.